

BIG SAVINGS FOR AMERICAN TAXPAYERS

(Ms. DUNN of Washington asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DUNN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, today the 104th Congress will vote to end big government. By the end of the day today, we will have saved taxpayers \$43 billion over the length of the 104th Congress, the largest single cut in government spending since World War II. Translation: \$688 for a family of four.

With passage of today's legislation, this Congress will end over 200 programs, more than 100 in Labor, Health and Human Services alone, \$12 million on a tick eradication program for cattle in Puerto Rico, and \$14 million for the U.S. Travel and Tourism Association.

The bill strengthens priority programs that our constituents said are important to them: An additional \$400 million for veterans medical benefits, support for our troops in Bosnia, and antiterrorism programs in Israel.

This bill does not just put the brakes on runaway Federal spending, it reverses it. Finally America's values have triumphed over Washington, DC, values. This truly is a historic day.

GIVE AMERICA A RAISE

(Mr. MARKEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, Harry Truman used to say that the Republican Party supports the minimum wage: The lower the minimum, the better. Now that we are at a historic minimum, the Republicans will not even give the American people a vote on the floor of the Congress so we can give America a raise, and that is wrong.

Mr. Speaker, I remember when I was a boy, and minimum wage jobs, when the minimum wage went up 20 cents, it was a raise. It gave you something to be proud of. It gave you a little extra money.

For Americans to get an extra one buck an hour is \$1,800 a year. That is the average 40-hour workweek. That is a lot of money for families. You can buy a lot of food and health care with \$1,800. That is \$1 an hour.

Give America a raise. Give people who make the minimum wage the decency of allowing them to fulfill Harry Truman's promise for this country.

PRESIDENTIAL PROMISES NOT FULFILLED

(Mr. FRANKS of Connecticut asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FRANKS of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, today is Take Your Daughter to Work Day. Being a position role

model and raising a child's self-esteem are noble objectives. However, for too many of those who represent our weakest links in our society, there is no father in the house to bring a child to work, and the mother, she gets a quasi-minimum wage increase by simply having another baby.

Once upon a time there was a candidate for President who said he would end welfare as we know it. Since that slogan apparently helped Mr. Clinton get elected in 1992, I guess the 1996 slogan will be "Really, folks, some day I want to end welfare as we know it." The record would show that Mr. Clinton took 2 years to even introduce an outline of a bill, and he has vetoed welfare reform twice.

Truly the only missing ingredient between taking the first step toward welfare reform and the continuation of this vicious cycle of government dependency is President Bill Clinton.

RAISE THE MINIMUM WAGE

(Mr. WYNN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WYNN. Mr. Speaker, once again I rise to support the minimum wage. People will tell you that while this is just an issue about young teenagers, that is absolutely untrue. Seventy-five percent of the people who make the minimum wage are adults. Fifty-eight percent of them are women, and they head households.

Do you know how much you make a year off the minimum wage? \$8,400 a year, doing some of the dirtiest, most unpleasant, hardest work we have in this country.

Now, I cannot understand why we cannot increase the minimum wage. There are bipartisan majorities in both Houses willing to support a \$1 increase in the minimum wage. So why will the Republican leadership not bring it up?

The fact is that the Republican leadership makes over \$100,000 a year. People on minimum wage make \$8,400 a year. Is it too much to ask to give these people, these women, these hard-working Americans, a raise of \$1? I do not think so.

Again, I reiterate, we ought to raise the minimum wage.

A GOOD DAY FOR THE AMERICAN TAXPAYERS

(Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, today is a good day for American taxpayers. It is a day they have waited for for many, many years. Today the House and the Senate will consider and pass the omnibus appropriations bill.

This bill represents the values of ordinary American taxpayers. It represents the values of people who work hard and play by the rules. It rep-

resents the values of people who are tired of seeing one-quarter of their income going to a Federal Government that has racked up a \$5 trillion national debt.

This bill rejects the values of Washington. It is a departure from the tax, tax, spend, spend philosophy of the true extremists, the status quo Clinton liberals. This bill rejects the values of all the liberal special interests who have dominated this House for 40 years.

Mr. Speaker, this Congress can be proud that we are making the changes demanded by the American people. This new Congress is saying no to Washington's values and yes to American values.

RAISE MINIMUM WAGE NOW

(Ms. DELAURO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, yesterday NEWT GINGRICH and his leadership team stiffed America's hardworking families once again. These are the families who work hard; they play by the rules. They are working longer and harder to pay the bills to save for education and for retirement.

These families support an increase in the minimum wage. Eighty-four percent of the American people favor raising the minimum wage, everyone, that is, except for the House Republican leadership.

Yesterday the Republican majority leader said he will not schedule a vote on the minimum wage. Why do House Republicans continue to give working families the back of their hand rather than extending a hand? Because, as a top business lobbyist said yesterday, we made them, and this is a quote, "We made them the majority." Republicans continue to pay off their special interest pals rather than helping America's hardworking families.

Mr. Speaker, this is the people's House, not the House of special interests. Stop hurting working families in this country. Raise the minimum wage now.

MEDICARE'S PENDING BANKRUPTCY

(Mr. FUNDERBURK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FUNDERBURK. Mr. Speaker, how long are the Clinton Democrats going to ignore reports that Medicare is going broke? How long are they going to jeopardize the future of our parents' and grandparents' health?

Mr. Speaker, new Government reports show a \$4.2 billion shortfall in Medicare for the first half of this fiscal year, \$4.2 billion.

Just last year the Clinton administration predicted Medicare would take in \$45 billion more. It seems the Clinton administration was wrong. When